

Minutes of October 13, 2016 PEGAOB Meeting
Approved at November 10, 2016 PEGAOB Meeting

Present: Mark Barth, Mario Chiarello, Marc Gronich, Ron Lesko, Elizabeth Richards, Chris Saagas, Cathy Taylor

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Approved Minutes of August 11, 2016 PEGAOB meeting

Public comment

Dennis Karius asked about efficient ways to share a recent program and asked if the website from New Zealand is still in use. Board members offered suggestions.

Nancy Benedict distributed a copy of her letter to Mayor Sheehan on behalf of Citizens for Public Transportation and more broadly on the availability of public access television, as follows:

- Compliments the studio coordinator who arranged a fixed time to record their show making it possible to schedule guests on the program.
- Advocates that Education and Government programming appear on their own channels.
- Believes that more publicity will interest other groups to create weekly or monthly programs.
- Urges that PEGAOB pay a full-time studio coordinator. Being open 19 hours a week is insufficient.

Keith Irish urged board members to go to the common Council meetings to advocate for money. He also cited a national survey of salaries of PEG staff which show amounts higher than what we offer in this area.

Chairperson's Report

Mario asked if there were questions regarding the report and attachments he sent to members; and thanked Jake for completing his log sheets covering September 3 to October 8, 2016.

Studio Hardware – Important content from the main PC was copied onto a thumb drive and transported to two current PC's. A replacement hard drive was purchased to replace the bad drive on original PC.

The Common Council Ad Hoc Committee met on October 4, 2016. Mario:

- Participated in interviews of five applicants and made recommendations for two open Common Council appointments to the PEGAOB,.
- Replied to questions on the 2016 PEGAOB Report submitted to the Common Council;
- Replied to a request to add slides of the current the Government channel #17, explaining that it cannot be done.
 - o Ch. #17 is controlled by Time Warner and broadcasts the NASA channel.
 - o We added the Common Council slides to our loop on Channel #18.
- Replied to inquiry about Open Stage Media proposal [see *Old Business*].

- Outreach: Marc and Keith attended Albany Council of Neighborhood Association [CANA] meetings¹ to share information about our efforts and seek their involvement.
- We added new slides to the “continuity loop: a request for volunteers and a request for feedback on the above mentioned Common Council slides.

Mario: A Community Development Agency Grant to PEGAOB will be considered by its board in November [see *Old Business*].

Question: Do Common Council members or staff volunteer assistance in videotaping their meetings?

Reply: Various explanations are given regarding the distribution of responsibility for work that falls upon PEG members and activists.

Some PEGAOB members believe Common Council members do not appreciate PEGAOB contributions. We do not have sufficient resources to improve the quality of the recordings.

There are challenges presented by the Common Council Chamber and its microphones.

Conversation follows: Create a Technology Committee that includes Non PEGAOB members.

Liz is interested but not ready to commit to two other responsibilities.

Mario says we already have a proposal from *Audio Video*.

Marc has an evaluation from *ConTech* located in Voorheesville which quoted \$150,000 “for everything.”

Mario: The Board discussed the Common Council schedule and process in review the Mayor's submitted budget by late November. It has discretionary funds. There is no Plan B if they do not approve \$15,000 for PEGAOB.

Old Business

a) Next steps re: funding for 1-20-17 -- Our request for \$35,000 was not in the Mayor's budget proposal.

b) The Mayor's office indicated the Albany Community Development Agency Board will consider an allocation of \$15,000 for our coordinator for 2017 at their November Board meeting.

c) Open Stage Media Proposal. Mario spoke with Zebulon Schmidt and Phillip Morris. OSM's one page proposal dated 10-14-16 was distributed. It takes a Capital Region approach to public access television combining their program with ours.

¹ Historic Pastures Neighborhood Watch; Beverwyck Neighborhood Association; Whitehall Neighborhood Watch; Second Avenue Neighborhood Association; Mansion Neighborhood Association; Mount Hope Neighborhood Association; Sheridan Hollow Neighborhood Association.

Dennis Gaffney: Mayor Sheehan wants the Board to pursue a regional approach and avoid duplication of resources. It would fill the three channels: 16, 17, 18. Having OSM oversee administration of Channel Albany frees up resources here to provide a better platform. The Mayor's Government Channel priority is broadcasting Common Council and Board of Education meetings.

Several questions were raised including what would happen with PEG Board. Answer: "We're still responsible." A fuller discussion is scheduled for the November meeting.

New Business

a) Resolution - to allocate up to \$750 for the purchase of Word Press Web Site services, a cordless phone & answering machine for the studio, printer/ scanner; a backup hard drive data storage system; shelves for DVD storage and organization, business cards. Motion made by Liz, seconded by Marc, approved.

b) Government session recording and editing [discussed earlier in the meeting]

c) Broadcast Schedule priorities. Marc urges we begin now. Mario, Keith, Marc are on a committee and will report back.

d) Getting existing content onto Video on Demand: Jake has a list of VOD programs. Our Internet connection is a roadblock. Mario is not sure if OSM can help with this.

Q. Can we pay Time Warner more money for better speed? Marc and Mario report that they tried that and did not get an answer.

Chris Saagas explained Albany Public Library speed at the Main Branch is a long-standing problem and stated that the Library Internet connection cannot be shared with the PEG studio.

Liz offered to have her student assistant transcribe any audio or video checklist that Jake comes up with for procedures at the studio.

Q. Isn't Time Warner responsible?

A. Time Warner offered upgrade options with "top fiber." A month to month trial until we arrived at a permanent solution was discussed but no contract was given. [Marc]. The highest speed would COST \$700 a month [Mario].

e) Getting Web Site established, populated and maintained. See New Business.

f) Outreach - for informing and soliciting volunteers: Neighborhood Associations, Brochure, other. Ocasio presented additional ideas in committee.

g) Coordinator's activity and priorities: already discussed. Marc has conflict with the Nov. meeting date due to CANA meeting. Jake and Mario will prioritize tasks.

Two new Common Council appointments to the PEGAOB were introduced: Tracia Gordon (Substitute Teacher) and Don Hyman (spelling) who produces Albany Tempo Spectrum.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM

Action steps:

Mario - Share Open Stage Media's Proposal with the Board electronically.

Mario - Follow up with SUNYA re: possible involvement in Albany PEG.

Technology Committee - Follow up on Common Council recording improvements.

Studio Coordinator - Record various studio processes so they can be documented.

Studio Coordinator - Upload New School's CWC programs to VOD.

Board & Mario - Follow up on our Web site.

Mario - Follow up on Time Warner Internet speed options